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International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

Note verbale dated 23 October 1998 from the Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and, in connection with agenda item 82, has the honour to transmit to him the text of the Concepción Declaration (see annex), issued by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean meeting within the framework of the Regional Preparatory Conference for the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), held in Concepción, Chile, from 12 to 16 October 1998.

The Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations requests that this document be transmitted to the Chairman of the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly and that arrangements be made to have it circulated as an official United Nations document.

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Annex

Concepción Declaration

Meeting within the framework of the Regional Preparatory Conference for the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), in Concepción, Chile, the representatives of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Underscore the importance for the countries of the region of the convening of the UNISPACE III Conference, to be held in Vienna, Austria, from 19 to 30 July 1999,

Consider that, with the adoption of the Treaty on the Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, which entered into force in 1967, the international community acquired an important legal framework governing the application of space science and technology,

Reiterate, therefore, the necessity of ensuring the universal scope of compliance with the standards and provisions contained in that Treaty and in the various international legal instruments governing space matters, in order to ensure the broadest possible utilization of the benefits to be derived from applying such technologies,

Reaffirm the will expressed in United Nations General Assembly resolution 51/122 entitled "Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries"; and in the Punta del Este Declaration resulting from the third Space Conference of the Americas,

Express their firm resolve to promote international cooperation in the field of space science and technology as a basic tool for achieving the sustainable development of the countries of the region,

Conscious of the need to meet the specific requirements of the region, emphasize the importance of orienting their cooperation programmes on the basis of the harmonization of compatible objectives and contributions in accordance with the human and economic capacities available in each country,

Express their conviction that cooperation projects must assist in developing the potential of the States of the region in terms of human, technological, economic and training resources in the interests of improving the results achieved,

The States of Latin America and the Caribbean, in line with the recommendations of the Punta del Este Declaration resulting from the Third Space Conference of the Americas of 1996 and of its Plan of Action, of the UNISPACE II Conference and of Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992:

Underline the value of using information obtained through space technology as a basic input into the decision-making process in the relevant field, in both the public and private sector, and therefore reiterate the advisability of adopting measures making for the timely and effective use of such information,

Reaffirm the importance of continued progress in the elaboration of standards contributing to the development of international space law, urging the States of the region to sign and, if appropriate, ratify the relevant multilateral instruments and to fully meet the obligations arising therefrom,

Recommend the establishment and/or strengthening of the governmental institutional machinery that will permit the appropriate development of space activities and foster participation by all sectors concerned. This will facilitate cooperation that will contribute effectively to the solution of the social and economic problems of the region,

Urge, also, the States members of the Space Conference of the Americas to increase their assistance for the numerous and important initiatives developed by the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat and thus to facilitate achievement of the objectives set forth in the Punta del Este Declaration and its Plan of Action,

Exhort the States Parties, international organizations and specialized agencies to adopt measures permitting full and proper execution of the projects adopted by the Committees on Sustainable Development, the Environment, Education, Communications, and Science and Technology, created as a result of the Third Space Conference of the Americas,

Instruct the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat of the Third Space Conference of the Americas to deploy every possible effort, within its available means, to secure the greater involvement and commitment of the member States with regard to the convening of UNISPACE III, especially those which, owing to their limited development in the field, have not previously been actively involved in such forums,

Takes note of the important work undertaken within the framework of this Regional Conference by the technical groups which have dealt with the topics of the environment, natural resources and disaster prevention and mitigation, as well as communications, education, basic sciences and micro- and mini-satellites,

Express their appreciation to the Republic of Chile for its efforts to ensure the success of the Regional Preparatory Conference for UNISPACE III.

16 October 1998